

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 27 April 2021 13:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Event #5 - UN FSS Champion Network Panel Series: Investing in a More Resilient Food System
CONVENED BY	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food Tank, and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and in partnership with the UN Food System Summit (UN FSS) Champions Network.
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/36599/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

999

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

Dialogues were organized to incorporate, reinforce and enhance the principles by always including a diverse group of stakeholders, to ensure that multiple perspectives were acknowledged and able to communicate with one another. These dialogues also recognized the importance of collaboration between stakeholders, encouraging a complementary approach, which fostered new connections.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

This dialogue facilitated respectful discussions between members of multiple stakeholder groups. The diversity of stakeholders was embraced, and various topics including Indigenous knowledge, cultural insights and science-based evidence were able to be explored as a result. Various speakers were able to voice their opinions about policy design options. These dialogues also recognized the complexity of food systems, by acknowledging that humans, animals, land, water, climate and the ecology and economic systems are all interconnected and fundamental to creating resilient, equitable food systems.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Designing sessions on the principles of diversity and inclusion from the outset helped to create dialogues that provided an opportunity for different stakeholders to connect across issue and sector silos, share perspectives and elevate areas of convergence and divergence.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

Speakers in the live dialogues were enthusiastic and curious to connect with one another from their respective locations and subject matter areas. Aided by the facilitators, connections were made throughout the conversation in order to point to areas of convergence, while it was acknowledged that tensions would always exist and require further dialogue and engagement to further unpack the issues and perspectives at play.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

On 27 April 2021, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food Tank, and Global Alliance for the Future of Food, in partnership with the UN Food System Summit (UN FSS) Champions Network, presented the fifth of seven-panel discussions focusing on how to transform the world's food systems. Each virtual series explored one of the Global Alliance's seven Calls to Action and brought together more than 25+ UN FSS Champion speakers worldwide, including world-renowned activists, journalists, business leaders, farmers, policy and technical experts, and many others.

This fifth event in the virtual series highlighted the Global Alliance's call to action: Unlock private philanthropic and multilateral investment opportunities, and sustainable food systems, and better align those opportunities amongst actors for greater impact. The panel brought together an international array of food systems leaders to issue calls for action on global food systems, elevate public discourse about reforming our food systems, and develop principles to guide stakeholders in leveraging food systems to support the SDGs.

Ruth Richardson, Chair of UN FSS Champions Network and Executive Director of Global Alliance for the Future of Food, set the stage for the discussion by distinguishing the difference between public and private capital flows and the capacity of interconnectedness between them. On behalf of Global Alliance, she proposed questions to guide the discussion that highlighted topics such as agroecology and regenerative practices, encouraging more ambitious funding targets, and acknowledging organizations that use grants to promote positive change in our global food systems.

Bettina Prato, Senior Coordinator for the Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network (SAFIN), opened the discussion by framing private finance issues in our global food systems' and the deeper complexities surrounding our current financial architecture. Prato stressed two inherent weaknesses in our current financial architecture on global and country levels. Firstly, finance in itself does not unlock investment opportunities, and the need to build up those opportunities is now required. We must design, prepare and de-risk those investment opportunities that are a weak area in the current financial architecture. The second identified was the need for fragmentation in our current landscape and recognizing the significant gaps in the types of capital being offered and the need to support the transition into more adapted and riskier agricultural practices. Prato stressed the need for riskier business models and investors to support investable opportunities that are really transformative and align with our agenda towards sustainable food systems.

Andrew Mushita, Director of the Community Technology Development Trust, emphasized the role that debt plays with smallholder farmers stating that it makes them more risk-averse. He stressed that investments should be demand-driven and ensure that smallholder farmers are being reached. There must be adequate infrastructure and technologies to ensure that the pricing system is fair for farmers to return investments in their economy and the agricultural development sector. Geeta Sethi, World Bank, echoed Ruth's initial point on the importance for public and private sectors to work together to define the price of carbon, soil as an asset and provide a policy framework that allows innovation to move forward, and compensating farmers for their role.

Co-moderator Dani Nierenberg, President of Food Tank, reemphasized the need to transform our food systems by actively engaging and recognizing smallholder farmers as critical stakeholders and mitigating the many power differentials commonly seen in the financial sector. Ndidi Nwuneli, Sahel Consulting/Nourishing Africa, stressed the importance of equitable funding and used Africa as an example of funding being received by the many start-ups driven by Americans and Europeans residing in Africa. She also emphasized the role gender plays in funding, stating that women farmers typically receive less funding.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

- Panelists believe that finance itself does not unlock investment opportunities, and thus good investment opportunities must have not only funding, but be well designed, prepared and de-risked.
- Panelists noted that investment opportunities must be demand driven and serve the interests of small-holder farmers.
- Some panelists argued that a next step which should be taken is for funders to actively track the number of local organizations that are getting financing, ensuring that local community actors are sufficiently funded and able to act sustainably.
- Panelists argued that stakeholders must break down silos and promote greater collaboration, between all sectors on the local, state and federal levels.
- Panelists believe there can be a mutually beneficial relationship between the public and private sector if collaboration is effective.

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KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Discussion Topics:

The first prominent issue the panel identified was the fragmentation and fracture of the sector, investors, there is a need for a greater understanding of different institutions and opportunities.

The second major issue that was discussed in the panel was it is important to not assume that investment opportunities and finance are connected, or lead to one another. These investment opportunities need to be designed, prepared for and tended to.

Another issue is private capital is moving away from this kind of investment, which is a big problem as we continue to look to invest in these solutions and put food systems at the center of the solutions set for many of the issues we are facing.

Many funders focus almost exclusively on short-term horizons, and there is a need to focus on long-term horizons.

Another prominent problem identified was risk, and the multiple dimensions of risk.

The last issue identified was power differentials, there is a need to understand that they are very prominent within the financing world in particular. Power differentials are present in terms of who has a seat at the table, who is a part of the decision-making process, and solutions need to address how to balance representation at said table.

Solutions Discussed by the Panel

To address the fragmentation and fractured landscape as there is a need to be more interconnected and need to create an ecosystem landscape. There is a need to understand how private and public come together particularly for the repurposing of public support and how those financial offerings come together and are mutually supportive of one another.

It is imperative to strengthen know-how, in particular, knowledge, and understanding of the system and opportunities within the system.

Another solution suggested was co-designing with actors at the table. This goes back to power differentials, markets designed must be connected to and in service of, smallholder farmers by including all actors, especially those on the ground.

Measurement and evaluation is a key solution in ensuring that things are visible, and progress is noticed. Values are important in measurement and evaluation because it helps determine what needs to be measured. It is important to ensure that intergenerational equity, youth, justice and fairness, equity, gender, resilience, and diversity are values at the center of conversations as they are important for funding flows to support deeper values.

ACTION TRACKS

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✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

In this discussion the panelists seemed to hold supporting views and there weren't any clear areas of divergence. The panelists agreed that the UNFSS will serve as a catalyst for change, but the challenge will be to translate these dialogues into national policies and implementation.

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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **UN FSS Panel Series Summary**
<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d23b196f-b343-497e-9134-d2b73ca2b1c9#pageNum=1>
- **25+ Members of the UN Food Systems Champions Network**
<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/event/25-members-of-the-un-food-systems-champions-network>